Guest Editorial

I am sure that all the readers of *Gold Bulletin* know that gold is special and unique and that their expectations are high for the forthcoming event '**GOLD 2003 – New Industrial Applications for Gold**'. This meeting will be held in the beautiful city of Vancouver during four days this autumn (September 28th to October 1st). It will provide all the participants with an opportunity to learn about and discuss the most relevant aspects of progress with investigations involving this noble metal and its derivatives, mainly in the following topic areas: Catalysis, Chemistry, Materials and Nanotechnology.

The papers in the Chemistry section are varied, and they include the highlights of theoretical aspects, as well as the synthesis and potential applications of new gold complexes. We will have the opportunity to hear about the synthesis of new chalcogenide-centered, ring, catenane, and homo- or hetero-polynuclear complexes with metallophilic interactions. Many of these derivatives have potential applications and we will also discuss the design of luminescent materials, chemo- and vapour-sensors, phosphine or other derivatives as potential anti-tumour agents, and other applications, as in imaging technology, amongst others. The large number of abstracts (more than 25) already sent to the Chemistry section of the website of '**Gold 2003**' (corresponding to 2 keynotes, 15 oral presentations and posters) guarantees that we will have the opportunity to hear about the most recent advances on gold chemistry. They cover all the fields of research interest of the various laboratories working in this field, both in the university and industrial sectors, and also identify further potential applications for the new compounds.

The '**Gold 2003**' meeting of September will give all of us the opportunity to discuss new perspectives in gold chemistry and its applications. We must recognise that during the last two or three decades spectacular developments have been made in the chemistry of this metal, leading to an unprecedented diversification of research interests. However, some aspects of gold science, its chemistry in particular, have been somewhat under-developed, at least in comparison with the situation of other metals, especially the platinum group metals. There are too few groups working in this field and the use of gold in industrial applications represents a relatively very low proportion of the total demand for this metal. We will therefore be discussing the new aspects of gold chemistry that need to be explored, and their influence on other areas of gold science, including nanotechnology, catalysis and refining. Making suitable ligands more readily available will be included in the topics for discussion. The conference will therefore act as a stimulus to the development of new gold chemistry and related new science and technology, and stimulate the identification of further new commercial objectives.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the Chemistry Committee who are helping us in the review of the abstracts and papers sent to the conference website. They are Dr Barry Murrer (Johnson Matthey Plc, UK), Professor John Fackler, Jr. (Texas A&M University, USA), Dr Simon Fricker (AnorMed Inc, Canada), Dr M. Concepción Gimeno (University of Zaragoza, Spain), Dr Daniel Leznoff (Simon Fraser University, Canada), Professor Sue Berners Price (University of Western Australia), Dr Annette Shier (Technische Universität München, Germany) and Professor Vivian W.W. Yam (University of Hong Kong).

We look forward to seeing you in Vancouver!

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